Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Rural areas

3224. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to modernise the old telephone exchanges in rural areas so as to provide better telecommunications services to the consumers; and

(b) whether Government are planning to replace the small telephone exchanges in the rural areas by bigger exchanges covering several small village exchanges so that direct dialling between several villages is provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Rural areas are presently being served by electro-mechanical type auto exchanges and manual exchanges. Manual exchanges are being replaced by automatic exchanges in a phased programme. As a further step, action has been taken to set up the local production of small capacity electronic exchanges. With the availability of these exchanges further improvement in the telecom. services would be achieved.

(b) Replacement of small telephone exchanges by bigger exchanges would depend on the demand, distance among various exchanges and availability of equipment. Provision of direct dailling facility covering several villages is already being provided in several rural areas, where it is feasible.

S.T.D. facility for Chittoor

3225. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no STD facility has been provided to Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) STD facility has already been provided to Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh *via* Madras and Bangalore Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAXs).

(b) Does not arise.

Action Plan for Cleaning Rivers apart from Ganga

3226. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central and State Boards have since made studies for prevention and control of pollution of six rivers Damodar, Subarnarekha, Krishna, Brahmani, Baitarani and Brahmaputra apart from Ganga;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any action plan for cleaning up of these rivers; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have prepared an action plan for clearning of the river Krishna. The total estimated outlay covering a period of 10 years is Rs. 588.00 crores. The plan comprises renovation of existing sewerage works and treatment plants, laying of interceptors for waste waters, installation of pumping stations, diversion of sewage to treatment plants, and use of treated water for irrigation and pisciculture.

Security Lapses in Assassination of General A. S. Vaidya

3227. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigations has so far been made about the allegations of